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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

■

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ended
31st December, 1953

■

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR J. S. JONES, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR L. KENT.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer :

L. J. SHIELDS, A.S.A.A.

Health Committee :

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR L. KENT.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR C. L. TYRER.

Members :

Councillor MRS. C. CARR

„ MRS. E. CROUCHLEY, J.P.

„ E. J. GILLESPIE

„ F. HOUGHTON

„ C. S. JONES

„ E. J. THOMPSON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

* Chief Sanitary Inspector :

L. M. BOOTH, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

* Additional Sanitary Inspector .

G. DAVIES, M.S.I.A. (to 31st March, 1953)

T. SUTTON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (from 1st June, 1953)

Clerk :

MRS. B. M. LIGHTFOOT.

Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspectors (R.S.I.).

**The Chairman, and Members of the
Newton-le-Willows Urban District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith for your consideration and approval my Annual Report on the health of the inhabitants of the Urban District during the year 1953, and on matters having a material bearing on this subject, both in relation to social or environmental hygiene and sanitation and to those communal services concerned with the personal health and welfare of the people as individuals. The Report, therefore, follows the lines of those submitted in recent years and embodies, in addition to the usual vital statistics and the work carried out by the Officers of your Health Department generally, information relating to the Local Health Authority's health and welfare services provided in accordance with the National Health Service Acts, the National Assistance Acts, the Children's Acts, and other Statutes.

Dealing first with vital statistics, it will first be noted that there has been a slight fall in the estimated mid-year population from 21,950 to 21,910—the actual 1951 census figure being 21,862—despite an improvement in the “ natural increase ” figure from 109 in 1952 to—123 in 1953, these figures being the number of live births in excess of deaths during those years. The number of inhabited houses has risen from 6,508 in 1952 to 6,570 at the end of the current year, so that the general over-all-housing situation has improved in some degree.

Of the 376 total live births, being 18 more than in 1952, only 6 were illegitimate—an improvement of 4 on last year's figure—while the “ crude ” live birth rate, at 16.7/1,000 and “ adjusted ” birth rate of 16.5/1,000 show an increase of 0.4/1,000 in each instance. Still-births, on the other hand, increased from 6 in 1952 to 13 in 1953, and the still-birth rate from 16 per 1,000 total live and still-births to 34—the highest rate since 1947 (when it was 38), and 14 per 1,000 above the quinquennial mean for the years 1948-1952—a deterioration which must give rise to some anxiety, and calls for serious consideration and analysis of the ante-natal and health education measures in operation.

The causes of still-birth are many and varied, but in general reflect the state of health of the mother, on which a very great variety of unknown factors, educational, social and economic, have their several influences. One cannot help but feel some disquiet during a year when there have been no real stringencies in the way of unemployment, no economic distress, no food shortage and so on, that this adverse trend should manifest itself.

The figures for the general mortality incidence show no appreciable variation from those of the last three years, or from the quinquennial mean : but those of infant deaths, especially during the first four weeks of life—the “ neo-natal ” deaths—show a very unsatisfactory trend, with a total of 18 deaths of infants under 1 year of age,

giving a rate of 49/1,000 live births, (as compared with 16, and a rate of 43/1,000 last year) : and 14 deaths, with a rate of 38/1,000 neo-natal deaths, as against 9 deaths, and a 25/1,000 neo-natal mortality in 1952. Not since 1948 and 1949, when the rates were 57/1,000 and 56/1,000, respectively, has this year's infant mortality figure been equalled, whilst the rate of 38/1,000 neo-natal deaths is the highest on record since these data were incorporated in the vital statistics of the district in 1950.

Of the 18 infants who died, 14 were less than 28 days old, 13 less than 7 days, and 6 under 24 hours old. All these 6 deaths in the first 24 hours were associated with prematurity, congenital defects or abnormalities, and small birth weights—some under 2 lbs. Similarly, of the 7 who died aged 1-7 days, prematurity is associated with 2, congenital deformities with 2, birth injuries with 1, haemolytic disease of the newborn with 1, and convulsions with 1. Of the four older infants aged between 4 weeks and 12 months, one death was due to Measles, 1 to Polio-encephalitis, 1 to Pneumonia (coupled with congenital heart disease), and 1 to accidental asphyxia or suffocation.

Of these 18 infants, 8 were born at home and 10 in hospital or maternity home : of those born at home, 2 were transferred to hospital, where they died, making a total of 12 deaths in hospital, and 6 at home. A preliminary and detailed review of these infant deaths reveals that in 12, or possibly 13 cases, they could be classified in the category of “ possibly preventable ” in the light of subsequent knowledge : but it is, of course, always “ easy to be wise after the event.” Although the mothers of all 18 deceased infants received ante-natal care and advice when carrying these children, either from their own doctors or midwives, in only 8 cases was advice sought at the ante-natal clinic of any Authority, and in only 6 instances at the local clinic.

Very unfortunately there was one “ maternal death ” during the year, (i.e., one directly attributable to pregnancy and childbirth), from “ toxæmia of pregnancy.” Every possible effort was made to save this life once the condition was known, and one can only deplore the circumstances which resulted in the illness being recognised only at a very advanced stage. This one maternal death—the first since 1947—is equivalent to a maternal death rate of 2.64 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

The total of assignable deaths of residents in the district was 253, giving a “ crude ” death rate of 11.5 per 1,000 population, and an “ adjusted ” (comparable) death rate of 12.5—(the same as in 1952)—as compared with the rate of 11.4 for England and Wales as a whole. Of the total deaths, practically four/fifths resulted from the usual major causes, as follows :—Diseases of the heart and circulation (exclusive of “ strokes ”)—111; Cancer—37; Strokes—29; Pneumonia, Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases (exclusive of Tuberculosis)—19. Accidents accounted for no fewer than 10 deaths—yet none of these were

due to road accidents. Shewn as percentages of the total deaths, therefore, the analysis reads :—Diseases of the heart and circulation (excluding “ Strokes ”)—44%; Cancer—15%; Strokes—11%; Pneumonia, Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)—8%. The proportion of deaths due to heart disease has, therefore, risen since last year from one/third to more than two/fifths ; from Cancer, it has fallen from one/fifth to one/seventh ; from Strokes, there has been no significant change, the proportion being still roughly one/tenth ; whilst from respiratory diseases the proportion has fallen from one/eighth to one/twelfth. The total deaths from tuberculous disease of all forms have fallen from 10 to 4, 3 of which have been from the respiratory type.

The year shewed a singularly heavy incidence of notifiable disease, the total notifications received being 693, the highest since 1951, (when the number was 813), almost twice the previous year's total of 385, and considerably more than the mean quinquennial figure for the years 1948-1952 (531).

The increase over 1952 has been almost entirely accounted for by the greatest numbers of cases of Measles (383, as compared with 98) and Scarlet Fever (79, as compared with 17) ; whilst Whooping Cough and Pneumonia have shewn a material reduction in incidence.

Figures relating to Respiratory Tuberculosis have also shewn some increase over those for the previous year, being 23 as compared with 15, but on the other hand, notifications of the non-respiratory forms of the disease have fallen from 6 to 3, and the mortality, from 8 to 3. So far as the morbidity incidence is concerned, however, there has been no significant increase over the quinquennial mean figure for the previous five years.

One is happy to be able to record that once again not a single case of Diphtheria has occurred in the district, nor yet of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Enteric (Typhoid) Fever, Food Poisoning or Meningitis. There have, however, been 3 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, and one each of Dysentery and of Polio-myelitis—the latter being fatal. With the exception of 4 deaths from Pneumonia, and 4 from Tuberculosis, the only other death attributable to notifiable illnesses was one due to Measles.

The principal sanitary needs of the district, in my view, still remain as :—

- (i) The improvement of the housing position as speedily as possible, both by new building and the adaptation and improvement of existing dwellings ;
- (ii) The prevention of pollution of our streams and water courses, and the clearance of accumulations of silt and debris ;
- (iii) The reduction of atmospheric pollution of all kinds, both domestic, industrial, and that resulting from exhaust fumes, particularly of diesel type vehicles ; and

- (iv) Improvements in the general standards of the older schools, in regard, not only to cleanliness and decoration, but to deficiencies in lighting, ventilation, and sanitary provision, including simple ablution facilities.

It were idle to pretend that one can feel satisfied with some of the statistics revealed in this report, and I advert in particular to the still-birth rate, the total infant mortality rate and to the neo-natal rate. It has long been accepted—and has now come to be almost axiomatic—that these constitute most important and critical indices of the general state of health and well-being of any community, and reflect not only the physical, but also the economic, social, and educational standards of a population. If this statement be accepted—as I think it must—then there is indeed cause for some anxiety when we compare these indices with those of other communities in similar geographical, social and industrial environments and with those of the country as a whole. Because it now seems clear — (to take the Infant Mortality figure as an example)—that the low figure of 26 for the year 1951 was not, as was then hoped, and appeared probable, a legitimate indication of continued progress, but simply a wide variation from the mean : nevertheless, the 1953 index of 49 approaches double that figure, and will not bear comparison with that for England and Wales, which this year is 26.8. Similar remarks apply to the rates for neo-natal deaths, and for still-births : both are considerably higher than for the country as a whole.

In conclusion I would like to express to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all members of the Health Committee and of the Council, very sincere and personal thanks for the confidence and consideration you have shewn in all matters concerning the work of the Health Department : and to thank also the Heads of Staff of all other Departments of the Council, who have always accorded their very willing assistance in matters of mutual interest and concern. Finally, I must in particular record my great appreciation of the work of Mr. Booth, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the other Officers of my own Department, for whom I have nothing but praise, coupled I must confess, with a not unpardonable confidence and pride in their competence and loyalty.

I am,

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

The major portion of the district is truly urban in character, with a relatively small acreage of a rural character. It is “ built up ” with the homes of the people, with Shops, Offices, Workshops, Factories, Churches, Mission Halls, Clubs, Hotels and all the usual ancillary buildings which serve a civilised community. The main industries are Light and Heavy Engineering, Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery manufacture, Bleaching, Dyeing and Calico Printing and Raincoat manufacture. As would be expected from the urban character of the district, agriculture plays only a very minor role in its activities.

2. STATISTICS—GENERAL.

Area in acres : 3,103. Population (Census, 1951 : 21,862.
(Estimated mid-1953) : 21,910.

Inhabited Houses : (Census, 1931) : 4,862.

Rate Books (end-1953) : 6,570.

Rateable Value	....	...	....	£110,327
Sum represented by a penny rate	....			£437
Births assignable to District			....	376
Deaths assignable to District			....	253
“Natural Increase”		....	....	123

3. VITAL STATISTICS.

Births :

Live Births	376	Legitimate	360	Illegitimate	6
		Male	174	Male	2
		Female	186	Female	4

Live Birth Rate “Crude”—16.7 “Adjusted”—16.5

Still Births 13 Male 7 Female 6.

Still Birth Rate 34 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.

Deaths.

General	Male	Female	Death Rates
253	134	119	“Crude” 11.5 “Adjusted” 12.5

The “ adjusted ” death rate is the “ Crude ” death rate after adjustment by a “ comparability factor ” supplied by the Registrar General.

Infant Deaths (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age).

Total, 18. Male, 9. Female, 9 Infant Mortality Rate of
Legitimate Infants, 50
Infant Mortality Rate of
Illegitimate Infants, nil
Total Infant Mortality Rate, 49.

Neo-Natal Mortality. Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age, 14
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 38

Maternal Deaths.

1. Maternal Mortality Rate, 2.64 per 1,000 total births.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLES.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (All Causes)		Stillbirths :		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. Regis- tered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births
1953	366	*16.7	253	*11.5	13	34	1	2.64	18	49	14	38
1952	358	16.3	249	11.3	6	16	nil	nil	16	45	9	25
1951	346	15.9	252	11.6	8	23	nil	nil	9	26	5	14
1950	343	15.6	261	11.9	7	20	nil	nil	14	41	9	26
1949	357	16.5	234	10.8	9	25	nil	nil	20	56	—	—
1948	346	16.1	213	9.9	6	17	nil	nil	20	57	—	—
Avg 5 years 1948-52	350	16.1	242	11.1	7	20	---	—	16	45	8 (3yrs.)	22

* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 0.99) 16.5 per 1,000.
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.08) = 12.5 per 1,000.

Comparison of Birth Rates, Death Rates and Analysis of Morbidity
and Mortality with those for England and Wales.

						Newton-le-Willows		England and Wales
						1952	1953	1953
						Rate per 1,000 Population		
Births—Live	...	...	...	...	...	16.1	16.5	15.5
	Still	...	...	...	...	0.27	0.59	0.35
Deaths—All causes	...	...	...	...	...	12.2	12.5	11.4
	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...					0.00	0.00	0.00
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...		0.00	0.00	0.01
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.32	0.18	0.20
	Influenza	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.16
	Small Pox	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis...					0.00	0.04	0.01
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0.72	0.18	0.55
Notifications—								
	Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Paratyphoid Fever			...	...	0.00	0.00	0.01
	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.03
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0.77	3.60	1.39
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	8.86	7.07	3.58
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.01
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0.27	0.59	0.14
	Small Pox	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Measles	...	...	...	...	4.45	17.43	12.36
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2.00	1.50	0.84
	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)				...	0.00	0.00	0.07
					(Non-Paralytic)	0.00	0.00	0.04
	Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	0.04	0.00	0.24
						Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
Deaths—All causes under 1 year of age	...				...	45.	49.	26.8
	Enteritis and Diarrhoea				...			
	Under 2 years of age	...			...	0.00	0.00	1.1
						Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births		
Maternal Mortality and Morbidity—								
	Abortion with Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.06
	Abortion without Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.04
	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy				...			
	and delivery	...			...	0.00	0.00	0.13
	Sepsis of Childbirth and the				...			
	puerperium	...			...	0.00	0.00	0.10
	Toxæmias of pregnancy and				...			
	the puerperium	...			...	0.00	2.64	0.25
	Other complications of the				...			
	puerperium	...			...	0.00	0.00	0.18
Notifications—								
	Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...			...	8.24	7.93	18.23

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the District was 187. Four of these were non-residents, and have been transferred to the districts in which they usually resided. 66 residents of this area died in other districts.

An analysis of the causes of death is shown below :—

Causes of Death.					Male.	Female.	Total.		
Respiratory Tuberculosis			2	....	1	....	3
Other Tuberculosis		—	1	....	1
Acute Poliomyelitis		1	....	—	....	1
Measles	1	....	—	....	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach				4	....	2	....	6
			Lung, Bronchus		4	....	—	....	4
			Breast		—	....	3	....	3
			Uterus		—	....	2	....	2
			All other sites		13	....	8	....	21
Leukemia	1	....	—	....	1
Diabetes	—	2	....	2
Vas. Lesions of Nervous System					11	....	18	....	29
Hypertension with heart disease				2	....	4	....	6
Coronary disease, angina			22	....	16	....	38
Other heart disease		29	....	33	....	62
Other circulatory diseases			2	....	3	....	5
Pneumonia		2	....	2	....	4
Bronchitis		10	....	2	....	12
Other respiratory diseases			2	....	1	....	3
Ulcer stomach and duodenum			...		1	....	—	....	1
Nephritis and nephrosis				2	....	1	....	3
Hyperplasia of prostate			3	....	—	....	3
Pregnancy, child birth			—	1	....	1
Congenital malformations			—	3	....	3
Other defined or ill defined diseases					16	....	12	....	28
All other accidents		6	....	4	....	10
All causes					134	....	119	....	253

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The District's water supply continued to be obtained chiefly from the deep wells at the Council's Southworth Road Works, and Makerfield Borehole.

The borehole has been completed by lining, but the holding tanks to ensure sufficiency of contact time for chlorination purposes have not yet been provided.

The water is of a high degree of purity and, though very hard, is otherwise very satisfactory chemically.

22 bacteriological examinations of the raw water, and 14 of the water going into supply after treatment, were made and were all highly satisfactory. The same applied to 2 chemical analyses of the water going into supply.

6,568 dwelling houses, housing a population of 21,907 persons, are supplied with water from public mains. 1 house with 3 occupants draws supplies from a spring.

All new houses have been connected to the town's water mains.

Food—Inspection and Supervision of Supplies.

(a) Milk Supply.

Supervision of the distribution of Milk was continued and the following action was taken in relation to :—

	No. of samples	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory
(a) Raw Milk.			
(i) Tuberculosis— biological tests	... 9	.... 9 (T.B. neg.)	.... Nil
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	.... 9	.... 9	.... Nil
(b) “ Heat Treated ” Milk.			
(i) Phosphatase test	.... 52	.... 52	.... Nil
(ii) Turbidity test	.... 19	.... 19	.... Nil
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction test	.... 52	.... 52	.... Nil
(iv) Tuberculosis	.... 3	.... 3 (T.B. neg.)	.... Nil

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

All meat retailed in the district continued to be supplied by the Ministry of Food from the Leigh distribution centre.

Except for occasional slaughter by pig-keepers of their own pigs for home consumption no slaughtering took place within the district.

All premises used for food preparation, butchers, grocers, ice cream manufacturers and vendors, bakehouses, etc., were kept under observation and inspected regularly.

No case of food poisoning was notified.

(c) **Adulteration.**

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and your Sanitary Inspectors are Sampling Officers.

43 informal and 22 formal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, County Offices, Preston.

Informal.

Article.						Number taken
Milk	....	....	....	....	....	19
Lemon Cheese	....	....	....	....	....	1
Jelly	....	....	....	....	....	1
Strawberry Jam	....	....	....	....	....	1
Raspberry Jam	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cheese Spread	....	....	....	....	....	1
Synthetic Cream	....	....	....	....	....	2
Pepper	....	....	....	....	....	1
Orange Segments in Syrup	....	....	....	....	....	1
Orange Drink	....	....	....	....	....	3
Glace Cherries	....	....	....	....	....	1
Beef Suet	....	....	....	....	....	1
Glycerin	....	....	....	....	....	1
Epsom Salts	....	....	....	....	....	1
Lemon Curd	....	....	....	....	....	1
Borax	....	....	....	....	....	1
Mineral Waters	....	....	....	....	....	1
Baking Powder	....	....	....	....	....	1
Ground Rice	....	....	....	....	....	1
Ground Arrowroot	....	....	....	....	....	1
Desiccated Coconut	....	....	....	....	....	1
Sponge Mixture	....	....	....	....	....	1
Chicken	....	....	....	....	....	1
						<hr/> 44

Formal.

Article.						Number taken
Milk	....	....	....	....	....	17
Pork Sausages	....	....	....	....	....	3
Beef Sausages	....	....	....	....	....	1
Rum	....	....	....	....	....	1
						<hr/> 22

Rivers and Streams.—Pollution of the several main streams running through the district from Ashton, Golborne, Haydock and St. Helens continues to varying degrees. Measures taken to deal with such pollution must of necessity be extemporary pending the completion of the Sankey Valley Sewerage Scheme, which should ease the position materially.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Extensions have been made to all new houses. Construction of the Sankey Valley trunk sewer proceeded and it now extends to its northerly limit, although connections to this district will be delayed until completion of the lower end of the sewer and the sewage works.

5. HOUSING.

1,910 houses are owned by the Council, of which 664 have been built in the post-war period.

During the year 34 houses and 8 flats have been erected by the local authority, 4 by other bodies or persons, and 6 by other local authorities.

One scheme of 12 and one of 40 flats were in hand at the end of the year. A scheme incorporating the erection of 98 houses and 24 flats on the Common Road site is contemplated, and preparation is advanced for approximately 500 houses on the Bradlegh Road site.

The number of houses needed to relieve the shortage, can only be estimated. Approximately 200 houses are needed to replace unfit dwellings ; 21 for overcrowded families ; and 350 for families living in other unsatisfactory conditions.

The types of house built between 60 and 120 years ago, are generally of sound construction but lacking amenities such as food stores, hot water, coal and other storage accommodation, as well as being below bye law standard in varying degrees.

There is also a number of cottages, with ages ranging from 150 to 300 years, which have nothing to recommend them except that they are picturesque and kept in reasonable repair.

Back to back houses are 2 in number ; back to earth houses 1 ; and single type (blank rear wall) number 3.

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....	21
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	.... ....	27
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	.... ....	173
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding discovered during		
		year	.... ....	3
(c)		Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year		12
		Number of persons concerned in such cases	.... ....	98

Closet Accommodation.—Every privy and pail in the district has been converted to the water carriage system, except the few which are beyond reach of a sewer, are below sewer level, or are isolated by streams, railway lines, or the canal.

Number of privy middens	....	....	....	25
Number of closets attached to these middens....				28
Number of pail closets	....	....	....	52
Number of chemical closets	....	....	....	5
Number of houses on water carriage system	....			6485

There are no waste water closets and no dry ashpits in the district.

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house refuse and salvage by motor vehicles, and disposal of the former by controlled tipping are supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

No regular cleansing of cesspools is undertaken.

Scavenging, snow removal, gully emptying, etc., are carried out by the Surveyor's department.

SECTION 6.

PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Admissions.

Hospital facilities for the treatment of cases of infectious disease are provided at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Warrington, where isolation and treatment was provided for 79 cases, principally of Scarlet Fever.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases Notified										Hospitals	
	Age Groups										Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district
	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1 +	3 +	5 +	10 +	15 +	25 +	45 +	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever ...	79	—	5	14	48	11	1	—	—	—	65	—
Measles ...	383	18	93	124	145	—	2	—	1	—	3	—
Whooping Cough...	155	14	33	55	52	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Ac. Pneumonia ...	33	10	4	5	5	—	—	3	5	—	7	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	1	—	—
Totals ...	667	42	135	198	246	12	4	8	15	6	79	4

Notifiable Diseases. Comparative Table of Incidence.

Disease	1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1948-52 (Mean)		1953	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	67	—	89	—	20	—	34	—	17	—	45	—	79	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—
Measles ..	219	—	314	—	63	—	586	—	98	—	256	—	383	1
Whooping Cough ..	195	3	67	—	221	—	31	1	195	—	164	0.8	155	—
Enteric Group Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	2.2	—	1	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	0.2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	0.6	—	3	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—
Primary & Influenzal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	50	7	23	11	30	14	97	18	44	17	49	1.3	33	4
Erysipelas ..	7	—	12	—	14	—	16	1	6	—	11	0.2	13	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory ..	10	6	14	9	21	5	38	9	15	8	20	7.4	23	3
Non-respiratory ..	3	1	6	—	3	1	3	—	6	2	4.2	0.8	3	1
TOTALS ..	555	17	527	20	374	20	813	29	385	27	531	22.6	693	10

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1953 :—

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
55	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
				11	12	1	—	2	1	—	1
Totals	...	...	...	23		1		3		1	

SECTION 7.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	20	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	54	6	—	—
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	3	—	—
Totals	61	86	—	—

(2) Cases in which Defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “ cases ”).

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	remedied (4)	Referred :		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	4	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	1	—
Total	7	7	—	5	—

SECTION 8.

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) Laboratory Arrangements.

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.

Pathological specimens for bacteriological analysis may now be dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service at its Monsall Laboratory, Monsall Green, Near Manchester, or alternatively at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Samples of food and drugs for analysis are submitted to the County Analyst's Department at Preston, whilst as regards water supplies, the arrangements previously in force with Messrs. Melling & Arden, Manchester, have been continued.

(2) Hospital Arrangements.

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board : Warrington & District Hospital Management Committee).

As regards hospitals the District lies within the boundaries of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, which administers Newton-le-Willows War Memorial (General) Hospital in Bradlegh Road, Wargrave, with a nominal establishment of 10 beds. The former Isolation Hospital, has been re-opened, having undergone alterations and re-equipment, whereby out-patient facilities have been materially extended, including the provision of an X ray and physio therapeutic department. A Chest Clinic, under the control of Dr. Black, Consultant Chest Physician, Warrington Area, is now held in these premises.

The great majority of persons requiring both general out-patient and in-patient investigation and treatment are dealt with by the Warrington Infirmary and by the General Hospital, Warrington, whilst cases of infectious disease requiring isolation are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Aiken Street, Warrington.

Expectant mothers requiring to be confined otherwise than in their own homes, whether on medical, obstetrical or environmental grounds, are normally admitted either to the maternity wards of the General Hospital, Warrington (if obstetrical complications are likely) or to the Victoria Park, Maternity Home, Latchford, Warrington.

Child patients requiring attention in Children's Hospitals are admitted to the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, and to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Manchester: and to the Leasowe Children's Hospital, Leasowe, Wirral, and the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital, Biddulph, Near Congleton, when specialised Orthopaedic care is indicated.

(3) Ambulance Arrangements.

Local Health Authority Services (No. 10 Health Division, Lancashire County Council).

Full responsibility for the management and operation of the Ambulance Service was assumed by the County Ambulance Service as from 1st February, 1949, and the district is fortunately placed in containing a County Ambulance Station, sited, in conjunction with the Fire Station, in Gas Street, Earlestown (Telephone Newton-le-Willows 3134), from which three “stretcher” ambulances and three “sitting-case” cars have operated on behalf of all types of cases, i.e., emergency, infectious disease, and general.

There has been a very considerable increase in the public demand for ambulance transport, as is shown by the subjoined summary of cases conveyed from the Urban District. The Earlestown Ambulance Station, of course, also serves other parts of No. 10 Health Division.

Summary of Cases Conveyed.

Emergency Cases, 824 ; General Cases, 4,267 ;
Infectious Cases, 79 ; Total, 5,170.

(4) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at Latham House, Cross Lane, on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, and an Ante-Natal Clinic each Wednesday morning. Attendances at these sessions have been well maintained throughout the year, as is shown by the following figures :—

Child Welfare Centre, Latham House.

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer—Dr. D. MacTaggart
(Tuesday afternoon session).

Health Visitor in Charge —Miss I. Heap.

No. of sessions during the year	No. of individual children who attended and were born in			No. of attendances by children at ages		
	1953	1952	1951— 1948	0—	1—	2—4 incl.
97	263	215	249	5,969	1,062	857

No. of individual expectant mothers

attending C.W.C. Nil.

No. of attendances Nil.

Ante-Natal Clinic, Latham House.

Consultant Obstetrician—Mr. Gordon Millington.

Visiting Medical Officer—Dr. D. MacTaggart.

Health Visitors—Miss I. Heap,

Miss A. Forshaw.

Miss M. Williams.

No. of individual women attending, 168 ; No. of attendances, 425.

School Clinic, The Gables, Crow Lane West.

General. The work at this Clinic has continued, although not perhaps to quite the same extent as formerly, owing to the changes brought about by the National Health Service Act, whereby the general medical care and treatment of the school child becomes the responsibility of the family practitioner who has accepted the child on his list. Such advice and treatment by the practitioner is of course now given without cost to the parent.

Both general medical and specialist sessions are held, as detailed below :—

Assist. Divisional School Medical Officer—Dr. D. MacTaggart.

School Nurse and Health Visitor—Miss Forshaw.

Assist. Divisional Medical Officer's Session each Friday morning during school term.

Nurse's re-dressing, etc., session each Wednesday morning during school term.

Dental.

The School Dental Officer, Mr. A. E. Shaw, ably assisted by his Dental Assistant, Miss Entwistle, has continued the dental inspection of all school children in the district during periodic visits to schools, and afforded both conservative and radical treatment to those requiring it. Expectant and nursing mothers and children of pre-school age are also eligible for advice and treatment.

Ophthalmic.

Ophthalmologist—Mr. Barker.

School Nurse in attendance—Miss A. Forshaw.

Sessions held weekly each Monday morning.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon may only be consulted by appointment.

Orthopaedic.

Orthopaedic Surgeon—Mr. Almond.

Orthopaedic Nurse—Miss Garrett.

The Orthopaedic Surgeon attends one half day session monthly, seeing both new and old cases by appointment: the Nurse attends one whole day weekly, for the purpose of supervising the treatment prescribed, for adjustment of splints, etc., and for the tuition of remedial exercises to improve defects and deformities in posture, stance, feet, etc.

(5) Midwifery Arrangements.

The temporary arrangements in operation at the end of 1952, whereby midwifery cover was being given by two relief Midwives from the County Pool, continued until April, 1953, when Miss G. McGuinness took up a permanent appointment in the district, and came to reside at 16, Ruskin Avenue, a most suitable location from which to cover newly developing housing estates, as well as the central districts of Earlestown itself. Since that date, therefore, the domiciliary midwifery needs have been met in the main by Mrs. Butler and Miss McGuinness, with additional assistance from Mrs. Kirwan, of Lowton, all of whom use cars in the course of their duties—a much more satisfactory situation than was the case last year.

For convenience of reference the names, addresses and telephone numbers of these ladies are given below :—

Mrs. S. E. Butler, 46 Kingsway, Wargrave.

Telephone : Newton-le-Willows 3210.

Miss G. J. McGuinness, 16 Ruskin Avenue.

Telephone : Newton-le-Willows 3778.

Mrs. M. Kirwan, 12 Sandy Lane, Lowton.

Telephone : Leigh 1521.

(6) Health Visiting Arrangements.

This work has been carried out by three whole-time and fully trained Health Visitors (who combine with Health Visiting duties those of School Nurse), and by one part-time Health Visitor: these domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision of the children and the health education of the families, are of course, complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above. The names and addresses of the Health Visitors engaged are :—

Miss I. Heap, Maynard, Belvedere Road, Earlestown ;

Miss A. Forshaw, Shotley Mount, Newton Road, Lowton :

Miss M. Williams, 16, Ruskin Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.

Mrs. M. Parker (Part-time), Higher Astley, Vitriol Square,
Earlestown.

(7) Home Nursing Arrangements.

Home nursing is undertaken by four whole-time nurses two of whom formerly practised as "District Nurses" and who continue their beneficent roles in the homes of the sick. The demand for nursing services has grown very considerably during the year, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, the staff have been kept very fully occupied throughout the year.

The names and addresses of the Nurses are :—

Mrs. M. M. Charnley, 3, Park Avenue North, Newton-le-Willows ;

Miss H. Tench, 38, High Street, Newton-le-Willows.

Miss D. Johnson, 158, Park Road South, Newton-le-Willows.

Miss M. Littler, 69, Oak Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.

Nursing Equipment—Provision for Loans.

A wide variety of ancillary equipment which may be required in the home—ranging from hospital type beds, wheel-chairs, dunlopillo mattresses and similar large items down to smaller but none-the-less essential articles such as feeding cups, air rings, bed pans, etc., is available on loan on the recommendation of the Nurse having charge of the case, at no cost to the patient except for damage not occasioned by reasonable "wear and tear." Some of the larger items are available from small central stocks held at the Divisional Health Offices, whilst each nurse holds a small supply of the less bulky and more frequently required articles.

(8) Home Help Arrangements.

This is a "permissory" service provided by the County Council through the No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public. Its aim is to provide domestic help when required by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, maternity, mental deficiency, or to assist in the care of a child or children. The service has expanded during the year in question, as the public have become more fully aware of the facilities provided.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time "helps"; no whole-time workers are employed. The Home Help Organiser and Welfare Worker, Miss P. Butler, is responsible for the immediate day to day operation of the scheme and is of course one of the Divisional Medical Officer's Staff. She also has considerable responsibilities for Welfare Services under the National Assistance Act, 1948, which will become more and more pressing as the full provisions of the approved scheme, formulated by the County Council under the National Assistance Act 1948, and given Ministerial approval during the current year, become implemented.

(9) Mental Health Arrangements.

The district as part of the Health Division is covered for this purpose by two Duly Authorised Officers of No. 10 Health Division, and by a lady Mental Health Worker, who deal with all the aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts and the Mental Treatment Act.

The names and addresses of these officers are :—

Mr. P. D. Parker, 12 Kenyon Lane, Lowton, Near Warrington.
Telephone : Warrington 3644.

Mr. Griffin, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory, Winwick.
Telephone : Warrington 3644.

Any request for the services of the Duly Authorised Officer outside of normal office hours should be made through the Ambulance Station—Newton-le-Willows 2013.

(10) Arrangements for the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care, (including Tuberculosis), and the provision of Convalescent Accommodation.

Responsibility for the above rests with the Local Health Authority partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis : “ illness ” includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of nursing and ancillary equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the District is Miss Monks, who maintains supervision of patients in their homes, and arranges for their examination or re-examination, and for that of contacts (including X-ray investigation) at the Chest Clinic newly opened at the Bradlegh Road Hospital, administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, and attended by Dr. Black, the Consultant Chest Physician, Warrington Area.

As regards Health Education—(a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness)—it is pertinent here to emphasize that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the Local Health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant, and should, in my view, continue to be exercised.

(11) Vaccination and Immunisation Arrangements.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria are available to all who desire it, either through the family doctor, who carries it out as part of his duties to the patient, or by attendance at the monthly immunisation sessions held at the Child Welfare Centre, Latham House, where this work is carried out by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

As regards the immunisation position, there are no grounds for complacency, whilst the vaccination state is, to my mind, deplorable and potentially dangerous.

During the year a total of 217 children under 15 years of age, completed a full course of immunisation, of which 176 were under the age of 5 years, and 111 were infants under 12 months old. In addition to the above, 11 persons over the age of 15 years also completed a full course of immunisation, making a grand total of 228.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population under the age of 15 in an immunised state at 31st December, 1953, was 58% as against a figure of 64% for the child population in Health Division 10 as a whole.

In contrast to the above, only 113 persons, of whom 70 were infants under 1 year of age, underwent primary vaccination (all but 17 successfully) whilst 38 adults were re-vaccinated. If one deducts from the total of 358 live births belonging to the District in 1952 the 18 infant deaths, this means that out of the 340 survivors, 70 were vaccinated; or approximately one in every 5 children born: a less favourable figure than last year, when the proportion was approximately 1 in 3.

9. THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

In the main, this Act provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years, who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of the Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day to day operation of the Service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis.

The Newton Urban District lies administratively within the purview of the Area Children's Officer of the Huyton Area, who is assisted by Children's Social Workers, the latter being responsible for all matters relating to "deprived" children, e.g., the provision of accommodation, the inspection and report on prospective foster homes, infant life protection, supervision of adopted children during the probationary period, the care and conveyance to suitable "places of safety" of children committed by the Courts to the care of the Authority as a

“ fit person ” under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, and so on.

The Area Children's Officer and her Visitors work in close co-operation with the Divisional Medical Officer and his staff, and I am happy to say that in this District (included in No. 10 Health Division), the relationship is most effective and cordial.

The Leigh Area Children's Officer is :—

Miss J. W. Cole, 89/91, Railway Road, Leigh.

10. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

So far as the Urban District is concerned, the Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of this Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case, also, is on the divisional basis. The main provisions of Part III relate to accommodation for those requiring it, and to Welfare Services in General for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities.

The scheme of the County Council in regard to welfare services utilises very fully the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation. Receiving Ministerial approval during the current year, it is widely comprehensive of the needs of all aged and handicapped persons, including social welfare, home and workshop employment, occupational therapy, the disposal of the products of employment, training facilities in arts and crafts, and the need for holiday homes and hostels. It now appears likely that this excellent scheme may possibly come into full operation earlier than was previously expected, as the result of the appointment in the near future of Welfare Officers, working specifically in this field under the direction of the Divisional Medical Officer.

Section 47 of the Act places on the Local County District Council responsibility for making application to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to secure the removal to a suitable hospital or other institution of any aged and infirm person who is unable to devote to himself proper care and attention, and is not receiving such from other persons. The application is made following certification by the Medical Officer of Health that such removal is necessary. No action under this Section was required during the current year.

Section 50 of the Act is of importance in that it places on this County District Authority the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when “ it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority.”

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

The year was not outstanding for any particular achievement but attention was given to the many routine matters which constitute the work of the Department, in spite of change of staff and other difficulties.

Mr. George Davies resigned in April to take up the appointment of Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor to the Abram U.D.C., and Mr. Thomas Sutton, formerly with Wigan C.B., succeeded him in June.

1. General Sanitation.

(a) Water Supply.

Samples of water before chlorination were taken each month at each of the Council's waterworks, and samples were also obtained of the chlorinated supply on reaching the taps of different consumers.

Routine samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

The results of the bacteriological examinations and the chemical analyses all indicated that the quality of the water was highly satisfactory.

(b) Closet Accommodation.

25 privy middens to which are attached 28 closets, and 52 pail closets exist in the unsewered areas of the district mainly in and around Vitriol Square.

2 privy middens were abolished during the year.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The refuse collection and disposal work progressed satisfactorily much more so than in 1952, when work was disrupted by the abnormal sickness rate amongst the collectors.

Although the modern planning of houses, by elimination of back streets, provision of out-buildings and a covered way with doors at each end between the house and the out-buildings, coupled with use of the covered entry for storage of perambulators, cycles and other impediments, renders emptying of dust bins a much more lengthy

process than in the case of older houses, all new properties were catered for without increase in staff.

The more settled policy of the Mills regarding salvage of waste paper resulted in an increase in the total amount of salvage recovered of almost 18 tons, although the income decreased by £222.

Materials Salvaged during Year.

Material.	Weight.			Income.		
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	112	9	1	754	0 8
Ferrous Metals	—	11	0	1	10 0
Non-ferrous Metals	—	1	0	2	5 0
Tins	5	8	2	5	8 6
Rags	—	2	1	2	0 0
Miscellaneous	—	2	0	3	19 0
Totals	118	14	0	769	3 2

(d) Shops and Offices.

92 inspections were made of shops for the purposes of the Shops Act 1950, regarding ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences. Ventilation was improved at 2 shops ; improved heating arrangements made at 2 ; and sanitary conveniences were repaired at 3 shops.

31 offices were inspected and sanitary conveniences were cleansed and repaired at 2 of them.

Summaries of the provisions of the Shops Act were delivered at each of the shops of the district and some time was spent in explanation and advice, particularly on the subject of the display of appropriate notices.

(e) Factories and Workshops.

Routine inspections of Factories and Workshops were maintained throughout the year and only minor matters required attention.

Three factories were inspected for the purposes of section 34, Factories Act 1937, and, following required alterations at two of them, certificates of Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire were issued.

(f) Rodent Control.

The Ministry of Agriculture's requirements for rodent control were observed and all types of premises were inspected and treatments carried out where necessary.

The form of report to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries remained unchanged but the period covered by future annual reports will coincide with the financial year (1st April to 31st March).

Number of infestations found and treated:—

(a)	business premises	....	....	....	....	12
(b)	dwellings	....	....	....	....	46
(c)	Local authority's property	....	....	....	....	8
(d)	agricultural	....	....	....	....	1

The sewers of the district were treated twice and the Council's sewage disposal works and refuse tip were baited regularly.

Treatment of Sewers				Treatment No. 16	Treatment No. 17
Total number of manholes	....	....	....	600	600
Dates of treatment	....	....	....	27th April to 30th April	26th Oct. to 28th Oct.
Bait base used				Bread Mash	Sausage Rusk
Poison used	....	....	....	Arsenic.	Zinc. Phosphide
Number of manholes baited*	....			85	80
Number of manholes showing take of bait	....	....	....	17	25
Number of manholes showing com- plete take	....	....	....	7	20
Number of manholes test baited and not included at*	....	....	....	71	Nil
Scheme of baiting	....	....	....	Consecutive days.	

(g) **Atmospheric Pollution.**

36 observations on factory chimneys were kept and nuisances were noted at three factories. Observations made included those during an experiment in which the management of the factory recorded the rate and cycle of firing and the fuel used. The results indicated that excessive smoke could be attributed to two factors, the human element and an unsatisfactory grade of fuel. An interview with the Area Distribution Agent of the National Coal Board at which the results of the tests was discussed, resulted in a slightly increased allocation of a more suitable grade of fuel.

Some improvement was noted in the periods of emission of black smoke at several factories, and one factory ordered a quantity of new plant which should be in operation during 1954.

2. Housing.

(a) **Nuisances and Defects.**

Compliance with notices was more readily obtained although unusual difficulties were met with in several instances.

There was a marked increase in changes of ownership, in many cases the properties being purchased by the tenants. In two instances summonses could not be served by the Police by reason of change of owner's address and later her death in one case, and the owner's mental infirmity in the other.

(b) **Unfit Houses.**

7 houses were vacated and 3 demolished during the year under Demolition Orders made in May, 1952. 8 remained occupied.

(c) **Overcrowding.**

No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....	21
No. of families dwelling therein	....	27
No. of persons dwelling therein	....	173
No. of new cases discovered during year	....	3
No. of cases relieved during year	....	12
No. of persons concerned in such cases	....	98

Of the 21 cases of overcrowding existing at the end of the year 14 are due to growth of the tenant's family and 7 to the lack of immediate housing accommodation for a married son or daughter. Of the tenant cases 8 require larger houses than are now being built.

3. Food and Food Hygiene.

Premises at which food was handled, prepared, stored, or sold, were visited at intervals and generally were of a satisfactory standard.

Food stalls on the market were inspected regularly and the condition of food hawkers' vehicles were checked frequently.

(a) No. of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year :—

Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	92
Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	....	64
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	....	32
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery	....	....	....	....	....	31
Butchers	....	....	....	....	....	21
Fried Fish and Chips	....	....	....	....	....	18
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	18
Market Stalls	....	....	....	....	....	15
Confectioners	....	....	....	....	....	12
Restaurants and Cafes	....	....	....	....	....	9
Preservation of Food	....	....	....	....	....	8
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	....	7
Total	....	....	....	....	....	327

(b) No. of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under local Acts :—

	No. registered	No. of inspections during year
Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pickled, etc., foods	8	20
Sale, manufacture, etc., of Ice Cream	64	93
Storage accommodation for hawkers of		
(a) Fish, Fruit, Vegetables	9	22
(b) Preserved Foods	2	8

(c) **Milk Supply.**

Routine and special visits were made and registration and licences were granted as follows :—

Number of Distributors of Milk registered and operating from :—

(i) Dairies in the district	7
(ii) Dairy farms in the district	4
(iii) Shops in the district other than dairies	49
(iv) Premises outside the district	13

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued during 1953, in respect of :—

(i) Tuberculin Tested Milk	5
(ii) Accredited Milk	Nil.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations 1949.

No. of licences issued in respect of " Heat treated " milk.

Pasteurising plants	—
Retail Distributors :—	
(i) Pasteurised	44
(ii) Sterilised	54

(d) **Meat and Other Foods.**

The following items were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption. All were surrendered voluntarily for destruction :—

Nature.	Quantities.		
	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Boiled Ham, 16 tins	1	2	10
Luncheon Meat, 25 tins		1	4
Corned Beef, 2 tins			2
Lambs Tongue, 4 tins			3
Ox Tongue, 9 tins		1	20
Ox Tongue, loose			2
Stewed Steak, 19 tins			14
Minced Beef Loaf, 1 tin			1

Nature.				Quantities.		
				Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Roast Pork, loose	....	....	....			8
Grapes, 2 tins	....	....	....			3
Plums, 102 tins	....	....	....	1	1	13
Greengages, 22 tins	....	....	....		1	13
Strawberries, 8 tins	....	....	....			10
Oranges, 6 tins	....	....	....			8
Oranges, loose	....	....	....		1	22
Cherries, 8 tins	....	....	....			8
Pineapple, 6 tins	....	....	....			6
Prunes, 6 tins	....	....	....			7
Apricot, 5 tins	....	....	....			6
Damsons, 4 tins	....	....	....			4
Peaches, 26 tins	....	....	....		1	19
Fruit Salad, 2 tins	....	....	....			2
Rhubarb, 81 tins	....	....	....		3	—
Grapefruit, 16 tins	....	....	....			20
Blackcurrants, 9 tins	....	....	....			11
Lawtonberries, 1 tin	....	....	....			1
Pears, 11 tins	....	....	....			18
Apples, 12 tins	....	....	....			17
Raisins, 2 cases	....	....	....		2	8
Peas, 26 tins	....	....	....			21
Tomatoes, 22 tins	....	....	....		1	—
Carrots, 1 tin	....	....	....			1
Beans, 3 tins	....	....	....			3
Red Cabbage, 2 tins	....	....	....			2
Onions, loose	....	....	....			20
Evaporated Milk, 14 tins	....	....	....			12
Cream, 1 tin	....	....	....			1
Syrup, 17 tins	....	....	....		1	5
Blackcurrant Jam, 6 jars	....	....	....			6
Strawberry Jam, 1 jar	....	....	....			1
Marmalade Pudding, 1 tin	....	....	....		1	14
Beef Suet, 5 pkts.	....	....	....			5
Flour, 1 bag	....	....	....			1
Drinking Chocolate, 1 tin	....	....	....			1
Pickles, 1 jar	....	....	....			1
Shredded Wheat, 1 box	....	....	....			1
Cheese, Loose	....	....	....			17
Processed Cheese, 32 pkts.	....	....	....			5
Chicken, 1 jar	....	....	....			$\frac{1}{4}$
Eggs, 26 doz.	....	....	....		1	7
Crab, 1 tin	....	....	....			$\frac{1}{4}$
Tuna Fish, 1 jar	....	....	....			$\frac{1}{4}$
Salmon, 7 tins	....	....	....			4
Sardines, 1 tin	....	....	....			$\frac{1}{4}$
Total	....	....	....	9	2	25

(c) **Adulteration of Food.**

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and its sanitary inspectors are appointed sampling officers under the Food and Drugs Acts. Dr. Walker, County Analyst, is appointed Public Analyst for this district, and we are grateful for the advice and assistance he so readily gives.

Milk—No. of Samples taken—36
No. adulterated—Nil.

Articles other than milk—
No. of samples taken—30
No. adulterated—Nil.

2 samples of Orange Drink indicated Labelling of Food Order offences which were notified to the Packers who amended the labels in each case.

4. Infectious Diseases—Control.

Enquiries were made upon notification. Disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. In other cases rooms were dealt with only on request.

5. Vermin Control.

No. of houses found to be infested :—					
(a)	Council houses	....	....	....	1
(b)	Other houses	....	....	....	13
No. of visits to verminous premises		....	....	....	43
No. of verminous premises treated		....	....	....	14

6. Statistical Summary of Inspections made, Notices served, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	231
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(A) **Analysis of Visits made by Inspectors.**

(a) **General Sanitation.**

Water supply	52
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	156
Stables and Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	4
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	17
Common Lodging House	....	....	....	....	....	1
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	70
Workplaces	....	....	....	....	....	39
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	18
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	....	....	....	96
Licensed houses	....	....	....	....	....	12
Shops	....	....	....	....	....	92
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	....	79
Schools	....	....	....	....	....	20
Smoke Observations	....	....	....	....	....	39
Tents, Vans, Sheds	....	....	....	....	....	12
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	6
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	37
Total	....	....	....	....	....	750

(b) **Housing.**

Under Public Health Acts.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	274
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	1278

Under Housing Acts.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	17
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	63

Overcrowding.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	8
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	15

Verminous Premises.

No. of houses inspected	18
Visits paid to above	25

Miscellaneous Housing Visits	11
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Total	1709
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(c) **Infectious Diseases.**

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	90
Visits re disinfections	8
Miscellaneous I.D. visits	19
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Total	117

(d) **Meat and Food Inspection.**

Inspection of meat—shops and stalls	7
—other premises	....	....	2
Visits to butchers	....	....	29
Fishmongers, etc.	....	....	67
Grocers	....	....	161
Greengrocers and fruiterers	....	....	150
Dairies and milk distributors	....	....	122
Ice cream premises	....	....	85
Food preparing premises	....	....	27
Market Stalls	....	....	459
Street vendors and hawkers' carts	....	....	26
Restaurants	....	....	15
Canteens	....	....	15

Visits in connection with Sampling.

Milk—bacteriological	....	....	....	....	85
Food and Drugs Samples		46
Water Sampling	38
Miscellaneous Food Visits		4
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Total	1338
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Total inspections and visits	3914
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(B) **Notices Served.**

No. of informal notices served	239
No. of informal notices complied with	205
No. of statutory notices served ....	....	77
No. of statutory notices complied with	....	66

(C) **Analysis of Defects noted and remedied.**

Type of Defect.	Recorded.	Remedied.
Chimney Stacks, Pots and Flues	31	41
Brickwork and/or pointing	42	41
Damp courses	32	30
Doors and/or frames	20	21
Drain stoppages	61	60
Drains repaired or renewed	30	31
Dustbins	31	30
Firegrates	15	15
Floors	28	22
Gutters	76	91
Paving of yards and passages	7	7
Rainwater pipes	23	26
Roofs	103	119
Sinks, etc.	11	13
Plastering	77	69
Waste Pipes	6	8
Water pipes	5	10
W.C.'s, Basins, Cisterns, etc.	42	50
Windows, frames, sashcords, etc	66	87
Miscellaneous	36	39
Total	742	810

The apparent discrepancy, that more nuisances were remedied than were recorded, is due to the carry over of unabated nuisances from 1952. It will be remembered that a gale in December, 1952, caused extensive damage to chimney stacks, roofs, gutters, window frames and sashes, and rainwater pipes and the works of repair were carried out in the year under review.

7. Additional Duties.

(a) **Petroleum Acts and Orders.**

There were 26 licensed storage premises for petroleum spirit, 18 of them for private use and 8 in connection with the supply of petrol to the public.

2 premises were licensed to store carbide of calcium.

Each of them was visited at least once during the year and was found to be satisfactory.

(b) **Lethal Chamber.**

The painless destruction of cats and dogs is undertaken by the department and a charge of 1/- per animal destroyed is made. Pensioners bringing animals are exempted from payment.

123 dogs and 55 cats were destroyed in the electric chamber.

Income amounted to £8.4s.0d.

(c) **Shops Acts.**

A summary of the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, as applicable locally, was delivered at each shop on the register. Routine visits were made, and occasional observations regarding closing hours, Sunday trading, etc., were kept.

8. Acknowledgements.

In a small department it is inevitable that a change in personnel must affect the quantity of work performed, but the year's efforts can be considered to have been very satisfactory. This is due to the efficient and willing assistance rendered by the members, old and new, of the Department ; to the interest and consideration shown by all members of the Council and the staffs of other Departments ; and to Dr. Crawford whose advice and co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

L. M. BOOTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

